

ARENA: Making Student Value Visible

Across the current system, decisions about vulnerable children are often made using fragmented, incomplete evidence.

This creates consistent pressure in key areas:

- Safeguarding records that don't connect into a coherent narrative
- Attendance data that shows absence, but not context
- Placement decisions made without full visibility of a child's engagement
- Increasing tribunal exposure linked to gaps in documented evidence

At the same time, many children — particularly those in complex or alternative provision pathways — demonstrate effort, growth, and capability that is never captured in a way the system can meaningfully use.

What Arena Does

Arena is designed to sit over existing systems, creating a joined-up evidence layer that allows professionals to see:

- what is happening
- where it is happening
- and what it actually means for the child

In practice:

- Evidence is captured simply (e.g. image + short context)
- That evidence is structured and mapped to recognised outcomes

- Safeguarding records are connected, allowing patterns to be surfaced for professional review
 - A clear, chronological narrative of each child is formed — not isolated logs
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Why This Matters

Current systems are effective at recording events.

They are far less effective at connecting them.

This leads to:

- missed safeguarding signals
- under-recognised progress
- decisions made on partial information
- increasing financial and legal pressure

Arena addresses this by making activity visible, connected, and usable — rather than adding further complexity.

System Positioning

Arena is being introduced as a complementary layer, requiring no immediate replacement of existing systems.

However, its architecture is intentionally designed so that:

as evidence, safeguarding, and outcome tracking become unified,
the functional need for multiple parallel systems reduces over time.

This creates a potential pathway toward a simplified, single-source model — where visibility, safeguarding, and outcomes are no longer separated across platforms.

Approach

- Minimal additional workload (low-friction input)
 - Supports — not replaces — professional judgement
 - Focused on visibility, not surveillance
 - Designed with safeguarding at its core
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Current Position

Arena is preparing for live case study deployment within specialist settings, focusing on:

- safeguarding visibility
 - attendance context
 - evidence-informed decision making
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Invitation

Given the increasing national focus on SEND, safeguarding, and accountability, this work is being developed with an awareness of both current pressures and future system design.

If this aligns with the challenges you are seeing across the sector,

I would value the opportunity to share further detail and invite your perspective.

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Jonathan Baguley